

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 NIC-01 IO-14

SAJ-01 EB-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /134 W

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3721

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR FOR POLAD & UPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD & OPS

USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1265

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, GE

SUBJECT: GDR HARASSMENT ON TRANSIT ROUTES

REF: BERLIN 1259, STATE 163362, BONN 11891

1. WE NOW HAVE MORE DETAILS ABOUT GDR HARASSMENT ON TRANSIT ROUTES JULY 28. THERE WERE ACCORDING TO LATEST REPORTS EIGHT INCIDENTS THAT DAY. WE ALSO LEARNED THAT GDR, APPARENTLY FOR FIRST TIME, STOPPED BUS AT MARIENBORN AND TOOK ONE PASSENGER OUT FOR QUESTIONING THUS HOLDING UP BUS FOR ONE HOUR. IN ANOTHER CASE GDR AUTHORITIES HELD UP WHOLE LINE OF CARS WHILE QUESTIONING TRAVELLER FOR 55 MINUTES. THERE WERE FURTHER REPORTS THAT GDR OFFICIALS WERE SEARCHING TRUCK SLEEPING COMPARTMENTS.

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2. AS OF 3 P.M. JULY 29 WE HAVE REPORTS THAT TWO AUTOS STOPPED AT STAAKEN, ONE TRUCK AT MARIENBORN AND ONE TRUCK AT HIRSCHBERG. THIS BRINGS INCIDENT TOTAL TO APPROXIMATELY 27 SINCE JULY 26.

3. HARASSMENT ON TRANSIT ROUTES CONTINUES TO RECEIVE FRONT-PAGE PRESS COVERAGE AS WELL AS CRITICAL EDITORIAL COMMENT IN WEST BERLIN PRESS. FOR FIRST TIME HOWEVER, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND JULY 29 DID NOT CARRY ANY ARTICLE ABOUT ESTABLISHMENT OF FEA.

4. MISSION IS AWARE THAT BERLIN PROBLEMS MUST BE SEEN IN BROAD CONTEXT, ESPECIALLY WHEN DEALING WITH SOVIETS. WE APPRECIATE NEED TO AVOID UNNECESSARY EXCHANGES. WE ALSO WOULD NOT SUGGEST INJECTING RHETORIC AT THIS JUNCTURE THAT COULD EXACERBATE SITUATION OR DAMAGE US-SOVIET BILATERAL RELATIONS. HOWEVER, FAILURE TO MAKE SOME SORT OF MEASURED RESPONSE TO SOVIETS AT THIS TIME IS LIKELY IN OUR JUDGMENT TO HAVE LONG RANGE DAMAGING EFFECTS. AT A MINIMUM, IT WOULD CONVEY IMPRESSION TO SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS THAT WE ARE PREPARED, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, TO TOLERATE DELIBERATE VIOLATIONS OF AGREEMENT IN AREA OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO US--IN THIS CASE TRANSIT TRAFFIC--IN RESPONSE TO THEIR ALLEGATIONS OF WESTERN VIOLATIONS, WHETHER JUSTIFIED OR NOT. WE MAY UNFORTUNATELY ALSO LEAVE IMPRESSION THAT WE ACCEPT, AT LEAST TACITLY, SOVIET CLAIM THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF FEA IS CONTRARY TO QA. WE ARE NOT WEDDED TO ANY PARTICULAR FORM OR MODALITY OF RESPONSE. HOWEVER, A TIMELY, BRIEF AND CLEAR MESSAGE TO SOVIETS IS NEEDED TO REMIND THEM THAT ALLIES EXPECT THEM TO LIVE UP TO THEIR CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS.

5. USCOB CONCURS.KLEIN

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